

ROTOVUE

Serving Marine Corps Air Station New River and Jacksonville, N.C.

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December 8, 2004

Vol. 43 No. 24

**Det 1 rises again at
New RiverPg. 3**



**New River sponsors
'Special' eventPg. 5**



**Station slams
HospitalPg. 18**



**Santa comes early
to New River**



Lance Cpl. Jonathan A. Tabb
*See page 2 for more
information*

FLIGHTLINES

ISMT Operator Training

There will be an Indoor Simulated Marksmanship Trainer Operator Training Class conducted from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday through Friday, at the 2nd Marines ISMT facility at building 134 on Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune.

Priority for training will go to the Infantry Training Battalion, School of Infantry and Station personnel.

Any unit that wishes to use the ISMT must have a qualified operator.

Candidates should be non-commissioned officers with at least one year left in the Marine Corps.

For class enrollment, contact Gunnery Sgt. Richard Small, Combat Visual Information Center staff NCO-in-charge, at 449-6676.

Santa Tour '04

The Santa Tour '04 will start Friday at 5:30 p.m.

The parade will commence around the Station, stopping at the skating rink for a brief "Meet and Greet with Santa."

McGruff the Crime Dog, the Crash Test Dummies, Chopper, Mrs. Clause and Santa's elves will also be in the parade.

SNCO Club Holiday Party

The annual Staff Noncommissioned Officers Club Christmas party is scheduled for Friday.

This adult only occasion is intended for SNCOs and their guest.

The event is free, including meals and music. Doors open at 7 p.m. and music starts at 8 p.m. and lasts through 12 a.m.

There will be heavy hors d'oeuvres.

Holiday Cheer Needs You

Holiday Cheer is asking for support in gathering 40 more baskets for Christmas. The deadline for donations is Dec. 15.

The results from the Thanksgiving campaign yielded 530 baskets, which were distributed to Station personnel and tenants.

For more information on Holiday Cheer, contact Petty Officer 1st Class Aaron D. Painter at 449-6801.

Commissary Closing

The Station commissary will be closing at 3 p.m. on Dec. 24 and will also be closed Christmas Day.

Red Cross Volunteers

The American Red Cross is looking for volunteers to donate some of their valuable time to the Red Cross. There are several positions available: Station chairman, hospital chairman, youth chairman, casework coordinator and chairman of volunteers.

Training is provided, and childcare is available.

For more information call 451-2173 or 450-4596.

Mail Program

The Department of Defense announced the continued suspension of the "Any Servicemember" mail program.

During this time of the year, the number of donation programs increases and causes mail from families and friends to be mixed with mail from unknown sources resulting in delivery delays.

Americans can still show support during the holidays by visiting www.defend

America.mil. Click on the "Support Our Troops" box on the left side of the page.

Global War on Terrorism

Marine Administrative Message 499/04 announced the establishment of the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal and provides administrative guidance and procedures.

Everyone is encouraged to read the MARADMIN and the criteria listed to determine if they are eligible to wear the GWOTSM.

Base Housing

To all eligible company grade officers stationed at Camp Lejeune or New River, there are currently quarters available in Paradise Point and also at New River. To be eligible for family housing, members must have eligible dependent(s); six to nine months left on station; six to

nine months of active duty service; and have already reported to their units.

Servicemembers may apply at the Family Housing Office located in building TT-43 in Tarawa Terrace or the Joint Reception Center satellite office on Molly Pitcher Road at Camp Lejeune between the hours of 8 a.m. and 3:30 p.m.

A copy of the reporting endorsement stamped permanent change of station orders or a page 3 or page 5 is needed to apply.

Point of contact for company grade quarters is Tami Harris at 450-1627, ext. 214, or email at tami.harris@usmc.mil.

On the cover

Lieutenant Charles D. McCormick, Marine Aircraft Group-29 Chaplain, arrives at the Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-365 Christmas party in a CH-46E Sea Knight helicopter dressed as Santa Clause Dec. 4 at 12:30 p.m.

Jingle all the way



Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo

Patrons of the Jingle Bell Fun Run merrily begin the five kilometer event Dec. 5 at the Station Marina. This was the eighth consecutive year the Station hosted it, and attendance doubled from last year. All in attendance received a jingle bell, a shirt commemorating the occasion and were encouraged to dress in seasonal clothing.

ROTOVUE

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Pridgen receives command of Ironhorses from Miccolis

Lance Cpl. Steven R. Sawyer
correspondent

Lieutenant Col. Robert D. "Sofa" Pridgen of Aiken, S.C., took command of Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461 during a change-of-command ceremony held Nov. 18 at the squadron's hangar.

The event doubled as a retirement ceremony for outgoing commanding officer Lt. Col. Lawrence E. "Jersey" Miccolis who said, after 20 years of service in the Marine Corps, it was time to take his leave.

"It's one of the hardest decisions I've ever made, but one that needed to be made," said Miccolis, a native of Passaic, N.J.

According to Marine Aircraft Group-26 commanding officer Col. Thomas M. Murray, when Miccolis came to him with his decision, it wasn't easy to accept.

"I've enjoyed my time here, and now it's time to take the next step," said Miccolis, who said he intends to enjoy his time at home with his wife, former

Annmarie Donovan, who he calls the girl next door, and two sons, Larry and Joseph.

His successor, Pridgen, has served repeatedly with HMH-461 and has a history of outstanding leadership.

"Sofa is fully equipped to handle this charge, and I believe he will take the squadron to a higher level," said Miccolis.

Pridgen has participated in countless deployments; attended numerous courses to expand his knowledge of military strategies, tactics, leadership and aviation; and conducted his duties in a manner befitting a Marine officer, added Miccolis.

His personal awards include the Meritorious Service Medal and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal. He has a Bachelors degree in Physics and a Masters of Science in Systems Management.

Accompanying him are his wife, Tamla, daughter, Katie, and two sons, Cary and Connor.

"May you have the best of luck leading these fantastic Marines," said Miccolis to Pridgen.



Lance Cpl. Steven R. Sawyer

Marines from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461 perform eyes-right during the pass and review at the combined change of command and retirement ceremony held at the squadron hangar Nov. 18. Lieutenant Col. Lawrence E. Miccolis, a native of Passaic, N.J., retired and relinquished command of the squadron to Lt. Col. Robert D. Pridgen of Aiken, S.C.

Osprey training squadron 'aims high' with Air Force beneath their wings

Sgt. Christine C. Odom
correspondent

In a re-activation ceremony held inside the Osprey hangar, Air Force Detachment 1, 58th Operations Group, was reborn Dec. 2.

Air Force Col. Paul R. Harmon, commanding officer of the 58th OG, unfurled the detachment's colors, signifying the re-establishment of Detachment 1 at New River.

"This is my first time activating a detachment on a Marine Corps installation," added Harmon, from Queens, N.Y. "It's a great opportunity for the Air Force to see how the Marines do things."

The detachment was re-activated in support of the VMMT-204 mission to train pilots, both Marines and Airmen, who are participating in the Osprey program. Six Airmen, including the new commanding officer of Detachment 1, Lt. Col. Darrin M. Valha, four pilots and one administrative specialist, make up the permanent personnel.

Its initial activation occurred in the late 1990's with the arrival of the Osprey. The detachment was subsequently deactivated after the re-evaluation of the V-22 program.

"We're going to be part of the instructor force, training Air Force and Marine Corps pilots to fly the MV-22 Osprey," said Valha, who calls Olympia, Wash., home. "It

will be interesting for Marine pilots to have an Air Force instructor and vice versa."

Detachment 1 is part of the 58th Operations Group based at Kirtland Air Force Base, N.M.

New River can expect to see more Air Force personnel receiving assignments here during the next year, with one or two trickling in each month. September 2006 is the approximate timeframe for the Air Force to be completely integrated into the Osprey program, explained Harmon.

"The key point that's going to make this a successful program is introducing the Air Force culture to the Marine Corps culture and broadening our understanding," he concluded.



Sgt. Andrew W. Miller

An AV-8B Harrier from MCAS Cherry Point, N.C., is unloaded onto the New River tarmac Nov. 18. The 'stricken' aircraft will be used by Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting as a training aid.

New training aids come in all shapes, sizes

Sgt. Andrew W. Miller
correspondent

Station Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting received a unique training tool recently.

The firefighters were given a stricken AV-8B Harrier from MCAS Cherry Point that was delivered here Nov. 18. This is the first fixed-wing training platform on Station for the firemen to utilize.

"This was at one time an action fleet aircraft," explained Gunnery Sgt. Garry L. Wilson, Naval Air Maintenance Marine Training Unit Harrier instructor.

"It was taken out of service in 1993 and has been used as a training tool ever since."

According to Gunnery Sgt. Brian T. Everett, ARFF training chief, the new Harrier will be used for aircraft familiarization, pilot retrieval training and emergency and shutdown training.

"Any emergency situation we could face we can practice and learn with this Harrier," he said. "The Marines will get unlimited access to this training."

This new tool is unique for ARFF, and plans are, of course, to utilize it to the max and look for improvements in other aspects of training as well.

"You just can't put a price on this as far as training," Everett said. According to Master Gunnery Sergeant Purvis D. Lockett, ARFF non commissioned officer-in-charge from Memphis, Tenn., because of

this fixed wing training platform, MCAS New River ARFF division will be better prepared today, tomorrow and for many years into the future.

"One great advantage of this trainer is that it's mobile," he said. "This allows us the ability to incorporate the use of grid coordinates (which is invaluable training) by moving it to various locations. I must admit this wasn't an easy task to accomplish."

"The ARFF division owes much gratitude to a number of key personnel from the Station commanding officer, (Col. Stephen L. Forand), (the comptroller, Maj. John P. Horvat Jr.), Brenda Craig and of course the push that made our vision a reality was from (Lt. Col. Frank H. Minor), Director of Operations," he continued. "To all of those and others, I personally would like to say thanks, however, Gunnery Sgt. Everett must be recognized for putting this project together from making the initial contact with Naval Air Depot, getting the approval for release of aircraft and coordinating the logistical requirements, ranging from disassembly, to transportation and reassembly of aircraft."

As with any other training tool, the Harrier will enable the ARFF Marines to be more mission ready. "It is the aviators that fly this aircraft or similar airframes that will benefit the most because we (ARFF) will be better prepared and more confident to respond to any given situation," Lockett said.

Hurricanes can’t stop AMAT CASEVAC prepares corpsmen for upcoming deployment

Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Everitt
correspondent

"Aviation Marines Awaiting Training" has become a more common term around the Station squadrons since the recent bombardment of the eastern coast by hurricanes. The storms caused the Aviation Training school located in Pensacola, Fla., to almost come to a stand still.

According to Master Gunnery Sgt. James E. Lane, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29 and Marine Aircraft Group-29 maintenance chief, a program called Aviation Marines Awaiting Training, which was set on the back burner two or three years ago, has come back into service the last few months.

"We had to do something because Pensacola could not keep up because of the aftermath of the hurricanes," Lane, originally from Worth, Mo., said. "It's actually a really good program; instead of the Marines sitting around doing working party after working party, we get a chance to give them a kick start."

The program, referred to as AMATs, places Marines waiting to get into their school in a fleet-work environment until their school starts.

Private Ashley R. Baldwin, who is awaiting aviation maintenance training, said, "All the AMATS are assigned to a section, then a (non-commissioned officer) is set to train and watch us."

The native of Emmit, Idaho, also added that her superiors are all great, and it's like one big family.

The day before leaving Marine Combat Training, Pfc. Stephanie L. Guevara and Baldwin were told they were going into the AMAT program.

"I was a little nervous at first, but once I arrived and everyone was so friendly, I felt right at home," confided Guevara, an aviation electrician waiting for school.

Guevara who is a native of Fairfax, Va., said she enjoyed the program, because it helped her to be more prepared for what she'll face when she gets out of school.

"We try to send them out of here with a better than basic understanding of what their job is and how to do it," concluded Lane.

Lance Cpl. Jonathan A. Tabb
correspondent

A casualty evacuation course was held here Oct. 25 through Nov. 8 to prepare corpsmen for deployment to Iraq.

According to Chief Petty Officer Robert E. "El Diablo" Brown, 2nd Marine Aircraft Wing CASEVAC program manager, the purpose of the training is to prepare their Sailors for deployment by educating them in day and night flight operations, resource management, operational medical skills, and many aspects of water survival.

Brown said the course began with a week of classroom instruction, but later training provided hands-on scenarios.

"The second week consisted of several night and day flight operations," said Seaman Mike T. Armstrong, 2nd Force Service Support Group Medical Battalion hospitalman, and Lake Orion, Mich., native.

According to Petty Officer 3rd Class Frances A. Rivas, Marine Aircraft Group-31 hospitalman, a large portion of the flight operations consisted of trauma drills.

"Trauma drills are a necessary aspect of training for corpsmen in today's modern warfare," the Natchidoches, La., native said. "We spent a lot of time with helicopter familiarization."

"(Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-264) volunteered to support the CASEVAC training," Brown explained. "They provided the helicopters used to simulate the actual environment the corpsmen will be working in. They did an outstanding job supporting us."

Twenty-five Navy corpsmen graduated from the course Nov. 8 at the Station Chapel.

Major Gen. Thomas L. Moore, 2nd MAW commanding general, was the guest speaker at the event.

"It was nice to have the CG here for the ceremony," said Seaman Dustin M. Allison, 2nd FSSG Aid Station hospitalman and Enterprise, Ala., native. "It shows how important this training really is."

"Our next step will be to receive training in operational emergency medicine at the end of November," added Allison. "Then we'll be ready to go."

The newly trained CASEVAC corpsmen are slated to deploy to Iraq with the II Marine Expeditionary Force next year.

New River, Onslow County work together for ‘Special’ ceremony

Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo
correspondent

One hundred thirteen athletes from Onslow County gathered at the Station Fitness Center on Nov. 19 to compete in the fall games of the Onslow County Special Olympics.

The Marines, Sailors and civilian volunteers from six different squadrons, the Naval Hospital and Marine Corps Community Service volunteered to support the games. Olympians came from 11 different Onslow County schools; Carobell, a live-in care provider; and their own homes to partake in the event, which New River has hosted for the last five years.

"We are proud to host such an occasion and hope we can continue to do so in future years," said Col. Stephen L. Forand, Station commanding officer from Fall River, Mass.

In true Olympic form, athletes filed into the gym carrying signs to show what school, center or group they represented.

Following Forand's speech and a performance by the New River Dance Team, the activities began. Some of the games were the "spot shot," "target pass" and "dribbling drill."

"We have been practicing for about two weeks and playing a lot

of basketball on the weekends," said Wendy M. Alexander, a Maysville, N.C., native and mother of Special Olympian Jacob Whetsell. "I'm so proud; this is their opportunity to shine. It just makes their hearts swell up because they know all the clapping and music is for them."

For some of the athletes, the Special Olympics is just a beginning, explained Dot Hochstrasser, the area coordinator for Onslow County from Allentown, Pa.

"We look forward to competing on state levels in basketball; we really have a chance to win. In the

past, we have had athletes compete in the World Games, and we have an athlete here today who has been asked to carry the Olympic torch," she added.

"This has been super. If we didn't have the volunteers, we couldn't do it. We have received overwhelming support from the military," said Laura J. Quinn, Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, native and volunteer director of the Fall Games.

However, the athletes and the workforce behind the Special Olympics were not the only ones expressing their gratitude.

"I'm thankful I was able to come out here and do something that was a new experience and still fun," said Lance Cpl. Kaitlyn Sierzenga, Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting firefighter from Shelby Township, Mich.

Jacob Whetsell, a student of Jacksonville Commons Middle School and Special Olympic athlete, takes a shot at the spot shot during the Onslow County Special Olympics held at the Station Fitness Center on Nov. 18. This is the Station's fifth year hosting the event.



Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo



Donate to Holiday Cheer 2004

Final day for collecting Christmas donations is Dec. 15, call 449-6801.

Awards & Promotions

Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron

Promotions
Gunnery Sgt. J. T. Wentling
Staff Sgt. V. D. Segura
Sgt. D. E. Barthel
Sgt. A. D. Cremeans
Cpl. J. Burgos
Cpl. R. F. Forrestal Jr.
Cpl. M. R. Heck
Cpl. J. D. Holden
Cpl. J. A. Olsen
Cpl. A. Silvaalvarez
Cpl. K. J. Sydnor II
Cpl. L. A. Warfield
Lance Cpl. C. D. McRoberts
Lance Cpl. C. A. Rees
Pfc. L. L. Carey
Pfc. J. M. Galindez Jr.
Pfc. I. L. Hill

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-26

Promotions
Staff Sgt. A. Romansalgado
Sgt. J. D. Bauer Jr.
Sgt. S. W. Dial
Sgt. J. R. Friley
Cpl. J. Brixey
Cpl. J. A. Cauley
Cpl. S. Collins Jr.
Cpl. A. J. Crepp
Cpl. E. L. Devoll
Cpl. J. R. Gay
Cpl. J. P. Gullett
Cpl. A. L. Hawkins
Cpl. A. D. Herns II
Cpl. J. E. Lamey
Cpl. T. M. Morrison
Cpl. D. L. Peterson
Cpl. T. D. Thomas

Lance Cpl. C. R. Marshall
Lance Cpl. D. L. Rice
Lance Cpl. D. E. Rothrock Jr.

Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29

Promotions
Staff Sgt. A. K. Gutierrez
Sgt. L. C. Blackburn
Sgt. P. P. Janusz
Sgt. W. R. Salan
Cpl. J. R. Dunlop
Cpl. W. T. Hardaway III
Cpl. N. W. Holman

Cpl. A. M. List
Cpl. J. W. Marble
Cpl. B. M. Melvin
Cpl. C. Sim
Cpl. B. J. Thomas
Cpl. G. W. Thomas
Lance Cpl. M. E. Arndt
Lance Cpl. N. B. Maassen
Lance Cpl. E. McVay III
Lance Cpl. M. E. Schmidt
Lance Cpl. D. Singley
Pfc. C. R. Hermiller
Pfc. W. A. Jones
Pfc. M. B. Reese Jr.
Pfc. R. Rodriguez
Pfc. N. J. Thomas

Pfc. L. L. West

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal
SSgt W. E. Mottley
LCpl M. G. Ward

Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461

Promotions
Sgt. T. W. Ettinger
Sgt. C. K. Lawson
Sgt. D. R. Velasquez
Cpl. J. R. Baughman

Cpl. N. R. Bensley
Cpl. K. Dicen
Cpl. C. G. Edge
Cpl. D. D. Vega
Cpl. S. D. Winfred
Cpl. P. Workman III
Lance Cpl. N. T. Goodrich
Lance Cpl. D. T. Lester
Lance Cpl. Z. A. Pico
Lance Cpl. K. M. Wisniewski
Pfc. J. J. Barron
Pfc. A. D. Johnson
Pfc. P. A. Miller III

See **AWARDS**, page 13

Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce honors Devil Dog

MALS-29 Marine named Service Member of the Month

Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Everitt
correspondent

Lance Cpl. Justin C. Alvarez, the latest recipient of the Military Affairs Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce Service Member of the Month award, has a reputation as the "go to guy" among his peers.

He was born in Jacksonville,

Fla., and raised in Virginia. Because his father was in the Navy, Alvarez moved around a lot at a young age.

He joined the military when he turned 18 so he could support the war on terrorism.

According to Master Sgt. Robert T. Rose, Alvarez's main duty is the Marine Aviation Logistic Squadron-29 legal clerk.

In addition to all of his primary duties, Alvarez collects the morning report from 16 different sections and prepares one consolidated report to be delivered to

Marine Aircraft Group-29 to ensure the accountability of more than 680 Marines.

Alvarez also trained the mail clerk ensuring a smooth transition to a fully functional unit mail room for MAG-29 and MALS-29.

He made sure that all mail was received and sorted mail for both units in a timely manner and that the mail for more than 100 Marines, currently deployed, was forwarded.

"It was awesome to receive this award. The Military Affairs

Committee of Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce planned everything well. The people over there are amazing," said Alvarez.

He concluded that he did what any Marine would do in his situation.

Lance Cpl. Justin C. Alvarez, a legal clerk with Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29, poses with Lt. Gen. James F. Amos, II Marine Expeditionary Force commanding general, after being named "Servicemember of the Month."



courtesy photo

History of Hanukkah

Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo
correspondent

Hanukkah is celebrated for eight days and nights starting on the 25th of Kislev on the Hebrew calendar (which is November - December on the Gregorian calendar). In Hebrew, the word "Hanukkah" means "dedication."

The holiday commemorates the re-dedication of the holy temple in Jerusalem after the Jews' 165 B.C. victory over the Hellenist Syrians. Antiochus, the Greek King of Syria, outlawed Jewish rituals and ordered the Jews to worship Greek gods.

In 168 B.C., the Jews' holy temple was seized and dedicated to the worship of Zeus. Some Jews were afraid of the Greek soldiers and obeyed them, but most were angry and decided to fight back.

The fighting began in Modiin, a village not far from Jerusalem. A Greek officer and soldiers assembled the villagers, asking them to bow to an idol and eat the flesh of a pig, activities forbidden to Jews.

The officer asked Mattathias, a Jewish High Priest, to take part in the ceremony. He refused, and another villager stepped forward and offered to do it instead.

Mattathias became outraged, took out his sword and killed the man, then killed the officer. His five sons and the other villagers then attacked and killed the soldiers.

Mattathias' family went into hiding in the nearby mountains, where many other Jews who wanted to fight the Greeks joined them. They attacked the Greek soldiers whenever possible.

About a year after the rebellion started, Mattathias died. Before his death, he put his brave son Judah Maccabee in charge of the growing army. After three years of fighting, the Jews defeated the Greek army, despite having fewer men and weapons.

Judah Maccabee and his soldiers went to the holy temple, and were saddened that many things were missing or broken, including the golden menorah. They cleaned and repaired the Temple, and when they were finished, they decided to have a big dedication ceremony. For the celebration, the Maccabees wanted to light the menorah. They looked everywhere for oil, and found a small flask that contained only enough oil to light the menorah for one day. Miraculously, the oil lasted for eight days. This gave them enough time to obtain new oil to keep the menorah lit. Today, Jews celebrate Hanukkah for eight days by lighting candles in a menorah every night, thus commemorating the eight-day miracle.

Marine Corps Base, Camp Lejeune, N.C., is holding Hanukkuh services Dec. 7 at 7 p.m. and Dec. 12 at 11 a.m. in building 67. For any questions about services, call 451-3210.

Information taken from <http://www.historychannel.com/exhibits/holidays/hanukkah/history.html>

Firefighter by day, expert rifleman every time

Sgt. Christine C. Odom
correspondent

Since he was 12, firing a rifle has been second nature for Lance Cpl. Jeffrey F. Dean, a firefighter at Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting who is attached to Station Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron. His love of marksmanship may have secured him range-high shooter during the Nov. 15 - 19 range.

With Jack Frost nipping at his toes, Dean still managed to score 56 out of a possible 65. Many of the Marines were impressed by how high Dean's rifle score was, especially Cpl. Ryan M. Roop, ARFF administration noncommissioned officer and coach of Dean's rifle detail.

"I didn't think Dean was going to have any problems firing on the range," added the Rossford, Ohio, resident. "I was pretty confident he was going to be the range high shooter. He fired well all week."

Dean credits his skill, that he calls his "hobby," to his grandfather Travis Knapp and his father, James Dean Jr., both of whom taught Dean and his two other brothers how to fire a rifle.

"My grandfather definitely was a big influence in my life," said Dean, a



Sgt. Christine C. Odom

Lance Cpl. Jeffrey F. Dean, a firefighter at Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting, snaps in on target during grass week Nov. 8 - 12. The Chesterfield, Virginian, scored 56 out of a possible 65.

Chesterfield, Va., native. "He was always around to do stuff with us and teach us things."

The first rifle Dean fired was the AR15, which is a bolt-action rifle. After becoming familiar with the AR15, he began shooting pistols, but that did not

diminish his passion for firing the rifle.

He believes every Marine should show this same enthusiasm for firing; it's something they are going to have to do every year.

"I take [the rifle range] seriously because the better I shoot at the range, the better I can shoot the enemy. There's no point in firing if you don't take it seriously. I would feel more comfortable knowing that if I was in war, the Marine behind me is taking his job seriously. Honestly, who would want an [unqualified Marine] to have their back?" he added.

This is Dean's second expert award; his fiscal year 2004 score was 49. He made a seven-point improvement from his last score, and said he can only get better.

Dean hopes that his hobby will one day give him the opportunity to compete in marksmanship competitions, but for now he's content with being a Marine firefighter.

"Dean is an awesome Marine and has really set the bar for the rest of his peers to emulate," said Master Gunnery Sgt. Purvis D. Locket, ARFF noncommissioned officer-in-charge from Memphis, Tenn. "He exemplifies all the characteristics a young Marine should possess."

Six Marines awarded for combat excellence

Sgt. Andrew W. Miller
correspondent

Six Marines from Marine Light/ Attack Helicopter Squadron-167 were awarded the Air Medal with Combat "V" at a ceremony in front of the squadron's hangar Dec. 1.

Gunnery Sgt. Nelson J. Prince, UH-1N Huey crew chief and native of Victoria, Texas; Sgt. Earl M. Day, UH-1N Huey crew chief and native of Amsbury, Mass.; Sgt. James W. Cox, UH-1N Huey crew chief and native of Glassboro, Mass.; Gunnery Sgt. Andrew O. Radford, aerial observer and ordnance chief from Flagstaff, Ariz.; Cpl. Samair Alyassini, aerial observer and airframer from San Jose, Calif.; and Sgt. Nicholas E. Bloomer, UH-1N Huey crew chief from Burnthills, N.Y., were decorated by the squadron's commanding officer, Lt. Col. Christopher M. Clayton.

While assigned to Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-266, they deployed with the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit to support Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan from approximately April 12 to July 11.

As part of the aviation command element for the MEU, these Marines logged more than 500 flight hours in three different Hueys over a 90-day span, and they contributed to approximately 45 confirmed kills in action. At the same time, they sustained minimal aircraft damage and no casualties.

"We came in contact with the enemy for the first time on June 2, which was a first for me. It was mostly small-arms fire and rocket-propelled grenades," said Prince. "I didn't really have time to think about what to do; we were just put in that type of situation and reacted the way we were trained."

According to the awards citations, their expert aerial gunnery enabled optimum weapons employment and enabled numerous successful attacks, resulting in destruction of enemy positions. By their skillful airmanship, steadfast aggressiveness and exemplary devotion to duty in the face of hazardous flying conditions, these Marines reflected great credit upon themselves and upheld the highest traditions of the Marine Corps and the United States Naval Service.

Roto View

What is your favorite holiday dish?



"Anything mom can cook is my favorite."

Staff Sgt. Luis Pelaez,
staff noncommissioned officer-in-charge,
flightline section,
Marine Light/Attack Helicopter Squadron-167,
Houston

"Chocolate pudding because I just really like it."

Lance Cpl. Joseph Pelchat,
bulk fuel specialist,
Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-162,
Montville, Conn.



"I like chicken linguine, because mom makes it every Easter, and it's the best meal I've ever had."

Pvt. Jon Dubarry
Marine Combat Training student
Auburn Hills, Mich.

Book Review: 'Last of the Breed' by Louis L'Amour

Lance Cpl. Steven R. Sawyer
correspondent

Many recognize the name of Louis L'Amour as belonging to one of the greatest western novelists of all time, but that's not all he is famous for.

Take the book 'Last of the Breed' as an example. Though it's main character is a Native American, the entire set of the story is far from the American "West."

The focus of the story lies on Maj. Joe Mackatozi, an Air Force pilot who is captured by the Soviet Union and forced to escape the Siberian wastelands by using the ways of his ancestors.

Joe Mack, as he is known to his counterparts, is a man of reputed skill. A very able pilot, excellent marksman and well honed athlete, Mackatozi is also the last of his family line.

Part Sioux and part Cheyenne, Joe has a deep connection with his ancestral roots and is very proud, both of which are the key to his survival later in the novel.

Take a look at the book. It's

different than the usual L'Amour novel, with a little more of a military edge, but it also has the same great tale-spinning that made him famous. I suggest you take some time out to enjoy this book.



*Donate to Holiday
Cheer 2004*

Final day for collecting donations is Dec. 15, call 449-6801.

AWARDS

from page 7

Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training

Promotions

Gunnery Sgt. R. L. Creason

Gunnery Sgt. P. J. Sladeczek

Gunnery Sgt. M. S. Walker

Staff Sgt. R. E. Wilson

Sgt. D. A. Medina

Cpl. M. Sanchez

Lance Cpl. J. A. Bryie

Lance Cpl. M. M. Carter

Lance Cpl. M. M. Houghtaling

Lance Cpl. C. M. McGuire

Lance Cpl. P. M. Moores

Lance Cpl. N. A. Neidlinger

Lance Cpl. R. A. Saenz

Pfc. K. M. Archer

Pfc. J. C. Benes

Pfc. A. S. Braman

Pfc. E. Campos

Pfc. M. J. Carlin

Pfc. O. Cortez

Pfc. L. E. Dominguez

Pfc. D. D. Ennis

Pfc. S. M. Fandry

Pfc. J. D. Frye

Pfc. W. K. Gaarder

Pfc. T. W. Hall

Pfc. A. E. Holt

Pfc. T. J. Jefferies

Pfc. K. T. Knapp

Pfc. S. J. Knudson

Pfc. S. M. Littrell

Pfc. J. M. McGuckin

Pfc. K. J. Nowak

Pfc. D. A. Payne

Pfc. J. B. Pledger

Pfc. R. J. Proctor

Pfc. A. D. Ramirez

Pfc. C. L. Rankin

Pfc. J. M. Seese

Pfc. A. J. Smith

Pfc. G. J. Soucy Jr.

Pfc. D. G. Stansel

Pfc. J. L. Strawn

Pfc. G. E. Straws

Pfc. K. S. Sullivan

Wood and Auto hobby shops make woodworking, auto repair convenient for Station Marines

What 'wood' you build?

story and photos by
Sgt. Andrew W. Miller
correspondent

The smell of freshly cut wood fills the air, and the steady buzz of saws is all that can be heard. The masterpieces that are made here are not created by world-class artists, but by common, everyday Marines. From time to time they take a moment to inspect their work and brush off the dust, which fills the air briefly in the dim, fluorescent-lit room.

The opportunities that abound at the Station Wood Hobby Shop make it one of the best-kept secrets at New River, according to Virgil L. Davis III, wood shop manager.

Davis, a native of Birmingham, Ala., has been on Station since 2000, but he didn't always have ties to the wood industry.

"I retired from the Marine Corps in 1993 with 2d Radio Battalion (Camp Lejeune)," he said. "After that, I went back to college for business administration and received my associate's degree from Coastal Carolina Community College and a bachelor's degree from Campbell University. Funny how that has nothing to do with what I am now."

His woodworking career began when he started working with Jacksonville Wood Products.

"I worked there for three years with eighteen other men, filling about three semi trailers per week with anything from desks and countertops to wall dividers and platforms for the New York Stock Exchange," he said.

"I think it was this experience that helped me when this job became available."

Here, his main responsibilities include, but are not limited to, buying and selling wood, issuing tools and providing guidance and woodworking instruction as well as safety instruction.

"I provide all the necessary safety equipment and will give the safety classes anytime during regular working hours," he said.

The Marine Wing Support Squadron-272 construction shop utilizes the Fleet Assistance Program to send one Marine per six-month stint to the Wood Hobby Shop for training and work with Davis.

So, there will always be someone here willing to help, he said.

Once a servicemember, retiree, dependent, Department of Defense employee or Marine Corps Community Services employee has an idea of what they want to build, all they have to do is stop by and see Davis.

"It's all up to the imagination of the client," Davis said, referring to the countless baby cribs, bed frames, rocking chairs, picnic tables and gun cases he has seen built in his shop. "People's shop skills are going to vary, but as long as they have an approximate idea, I can help with the rest."

One such client was Cpl. John W. Gabbard, MWSS-272 construction Marine.

"I am building a cutting board for my mother," said the Chicago native as he sanded it to perfection. "I have only

spent two or three hours on it."

Even if the client does not have a crystal clear image of what they want to create, Davis may have the resources to help.

He has an extensive shelf of books and magazines with drawings and patterns to help mold the imaginative idea into reality.

The facility is here and available for use. Which "wood" you rather do? Pay triple the price in town, or be able to take pride in the fact that you created something all on your own? For more information, contact Davis at 449-6690.

WOOD HOBBY SHOP USAGE FEES:
\$1.50 for the first two hours, 50 cents for each additional hour

WOOD PRICES PER FOOT:

Maple	\$3.70
Oak	\$2.50
Cherry	\$4.95
Red Cedar	\$1.60
Walnut	\$3.55
Mahogany	\$5.25
Ponderosa Pine	\$3.25
Ash	\$1.85
Poplar	\$1.50

All wood is rough-cut, enabling the shop to provide the lowest prices possible.

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Mon.	closed
Tues.	9 a.m.- 5:30 p.m.
Wed.	11:30 a.m.- 8 p.m.
Thurs.	11:30 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Fri.	11:30 a.m.- 8 p.m.
Sat.	8:30 a.m. - 5 p.m.



Corporal John W. Gabbard, Marine Wing Support Squadron-272 construction worker and Chicago native, uses an electric sander at the Wood Hobby Shop to make a cutting board for his mother. Gabbard is one of many Station Marines who utilize the hobby shop in their spare time to practice their woodworking skills and have fun.



Sergeant Angelo G. Maddaloni, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29 helicopter mechanic and native of Las Vegas, polishes an engine mount at the Auto Hobby Shop on Nov. 9. He was removing corrosion from the mount, which belongs to the squadron.



Lance Cpl. Joshua Bacak, Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-26, airframe technician and native of Austin, Texas, measures a fiberglass trunk enclosure in his car Nov. 9. Bacak built the enclosure at the Wood Hobby Shop with parts he purchased on his own. Like many other projects of Marines here, this was his second and most successful attempt with the fiberglass enclosure, the first of which did not turn out as planned.



Gabbard applies polyurethane to a piece of wood Nov. 9 at the Wood Hobby Shop. His finished product will be a shadow box.

Revving up auto repairs

Sgt. Andrew W. Miller
correspondent

Two hundred and fifty. That's the number of jobs Tenneco Automotive Incorporated plans to cut by the end of 2004. In 250 B.C., the first type of battery is believed to have been invented in Baghdad, Iraq. The 250 GTO was produced by Ferrari in 1960-62. There are 250 minutes in length on the special extended DVD version of 'The Lord of the Rings: Return of the King.' Also, on the Internet, 250 is the average number of business cards a person can order for \$19.99.

However, for Station Marines, the number 250 represents something greater. It is the approximate total of spouse's vehicles the Station Auto Hobby Shop has assisted with since deployments to Iraq began here.

"We've done everything from changing their oil to checking their tire pressure and fluids," said Jon Mayes, Auto Hobby Shop manager. "Some of these needs arise when the husband deploys, and the wife needs to go home. We have even been known to help out with lawn mower repairs."

Mayes and his five associates keep busy giving guidance to customers on larger jobs as well as including brake jobs, engine diagnostics tests, mounting and balancing tires and replacing water pumps just to name a few.

His expertise comes from a long history of working with automobiles.

"I retired from the Marine Corps in 1995 after being the motor transportation instructor at Camp Johnson for five years," said the Petoskey, Mich., native.

He has been the manager here since 2000.

Over the years, he has witnessed firsthand some of the more unusual things Marines will try with their vehicles in his 26-stall shop, everything from wild paint jobs on both autos and boats, as well as trying 'gull-wing' doors on a Camaro. He's not sure how the Camaro turned out though.

Aside from providing tools for automotive repair, the shop also rents trailers, towing equipment and basic lawn tools. It has a container for the collection of used oils and Marines are encouraged to utilize it for environmental purposes.

"We are convenient, especially for those living in base housing because they are not allowed to work on vehicles at their residence," he said. "We are here simply to provide a place for people to come and feel at home to work on their vehicles."

For more information and shop fees, contact Mayes at 449-6709, or for information about the illegal dumping of oils, contact Larry Lanier, environmental protection specialist at 449-5997.

AUTO HOBBY SHOP USAGE FEES:

Paint booth	\$4 per hour; \$20 per day
Paint gun	\$3 per day
Engine storage	\$1 per day; \$7 per week
Stall	\$2 hour; \$6 per day
Lift	\$3 hour plus project fees
Body shop	\$4 overnight
Mount tires	\$3 per tire
Tire balance	\$4 per tire(computer)
Diagnostic testing	\$10

HOURS OF OPERATION:

Mon.	11 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Tues.	11 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Wed.	11 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Thurs.	closed
Fri.	11 a.m. - 8 p.m.
Sat.	9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Sun.	12 - 6 p.m.



Corporal Rafael Flores, Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-264 helicopter mechanic and native of Charlotte, N.C., tightens the bolt after changing his car's engine and transmission oil at the Auto Hobby Shop on Nov. 9. Flores is one of many Station Marines who take advantage of the 26-stall hobby shop and utilizes their many tools in maintaining his vehicle. The hobby shop also has an oil container such as the one Flores is using here, for Marines to bring their used oil instead of polluting the environment.

NMCI - the wave of the future

Lance Cpl. Jeffrey A. Everitt
correspondent

Uniformity has been instilled in every Marine since basic training although this has not been the case with the Marine Corps' computer networking system.

Changes are coming though, because the Navy/Marine Corps team's contract with Navy/Marine Corps Intranet, which New River has a contract with. Electronic Data Systems, a subsystem, will take over the networking needs of the Navy and Marine Corps, according to Linda S. Davis, S-6 officer from East Saint Louis, Ill.

The system is taking control of networking to help ensure a better-standardized network. Marines moving to different bases or stations won't have to learn a brand new network; everyone will know what to expect, because it will all be the same throughout the Navy/Marine Corps communities. Now when a Marine checks into a new duty station, he will just have to update the global address book, and his address will be the same.

The "cut over" began here Dec. 1 with Marine Wing Support Squadron-272 and will continue with Marine Air Control Squadron-2 Detachment Bravo and Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron. All are scheduled to be "cut over" by Jan. 31, 2005.

When the new networks are installed, Marines will find an envelope with their user name and password the next morning. When a user first logs on, he will receive an approximately one-hour orientation about the new system and how to use it. All are encouraged to complete this for a smooth transition.

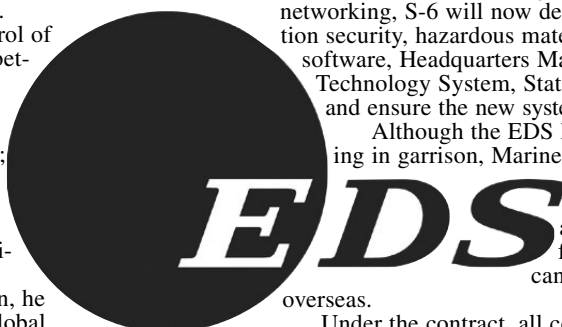
However, Davis also recommends that all Station personnel log onto the New River Intranet now and read the "ready set go" guide and the "migration tip sheet" to help understand what adjustments will need to be made for an easy adaptation to the new system. The section will also be on call to help with any problems.

Because EDS is taking over the majority of the networking, S-6 will now deal mostly with information security, hazardous materials servers, Legacy software, Headquarters Marine Corps Enterprise Technology System, Station telephone networks and ensure the new systems are installed correctly.

Although the EDS has taken over networking in garrison, Marines still need to do their jobs in the field. The S-6 will be given all administrative privileges for portable devices that can be used to setup offices overseas.

Under the contract, all computers will be replaced every three years, so no one is stuck with an old computer; a private's computers will be just as good as the commandant's, said Davis.

"It's going to be a cultural change that we will go through," she said. "But I think in the end, the change will be good for everybody involved."



The meaning of the word 'home'

Lance Cpl. Steven R. Sawyer
correspondent

Recently, I went home for the Thanksgiving holidays. For several months, I'd looked forward to a visit with family and friends. I planned my budget, my time and even put in my leave request almost a month ahead, just to make sure it got approved.

While there, I did what most Marines my age do. I visited with everyone, talked a lot about the Marine Corps and recruit training, and strutted around in my uniform once or twice.

However, after a week of having fun with all my loved ones, I realized that my leave was almost over and I would be coming back to the Station soon. For me, the thought wasn't that unappealing.

Why is that, you wonder? Truthfully, I think it's because I've begun to think of the Station as my "home away from home." Not so much the little barracks room that I occupy, due to be moved out of at a moments notice. Nor is it the desk that I sit behind for a good part of each day, typing on a keyboard.

I enjoy what I have here, to put it simply. I enjoy the work I do, which includes taking photos, writing stories, assembling the paper and meeting people. I also enjoy most of the Marines that I work around, people who each in their own way are an accurate representation of what this country is all about. But above it all, I enjoy the Marine Corps itself.

Maybe it's the sense of order and discipline, a routine I never had in my civilian life. Or maybe it's the fellowship I feel when I'm around a group of Marines, knowing that we are all a part of the same great organization.

On the other hand, maybe it's being able to wake up each morning and knowing that what I'm doing is helping someone, somewhere. That alone is more than many can say, and it's something that every Marine and servicemember can lay claim to.

So as my vacation ends, I pack my bags, say my goodbyes and head home ... to Marine Corps Air Station New River. Back to a job that means something, to a world that matters and to an oath I've never regretted making ...



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Open to all authorized patrons and their guests.*

December
10th - 23rd

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Fri. & Sat. 1800 - 2100



Roller Hockey Rink is located on Agan St. beside the YCC. Details call 449-5844.



Photo by Lance Cpl. Steven R. Sawyer

Staff Sgt. Dustin “Lou” Gherig, a player for the Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training softball team, readies to swing at the ball, thrown by Gunnery Sgt. Thomas M. Carlo of the Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-26 team, during the fall intramural softball league tournament Nov. 29. Even though the CNATT team lost the first game against MALS-26, they won the final game 17 - 6, taking the title.

CNATT beats MALS-26, new softball league champs

Lance Cpl. Jeffrey Everitt correspondent

The Center for Naval Aviation Technical Training softball team came out on top during the championship game of the fall intramural softball league tournament Nov. 29 at the Station softball field.

"We won because even when we were down we fought till the last," said Gunnery Sgt. Bradley E. Stain, CNATT substance abuse counselor from Sullivan, Ill. The CNATT team ended the regular season with a six and two record before beginning a double elimination tournament.

They played the last two games against Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-26, losing the

first 11 - 5 and sweeping the second with an 11-point lead to end the game 17 - 6.

"We couldn't have done it without teamwork. Everyone on the team gave their all," said Staff Sgt. Jon M. Barnes with CNATT student control from Tuscaloosa, Ala.

Captain Jason B. Davis, CNATT CH-53 Marine Training Unit officer-in-charge and native of Baltimore, said he didn't really have a coaching philosophy; he let the Marines who were there practicing play in the games.

"I'm not a coach, and I never claimed to be. I just told the guys every game we succeed together, and we fail together," said Davis.

CNATT's road to the championship ...

Date / Time	Opponent	Final Score
Oct. 6 / 6 p.m.	vs. Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-26 (Support)	Win, 13 - 6
Oct. 12 / 7 p.m.	vs. Marine Aviation Logistics Squadron-29	Win, 15 - 13
Oct. 18 / 8 p.m.	vs. Marine Medium Helicopter Squadron-261	Win, 16 - 3
Oct. 25 / 7 p.m.	vs. Marine Wing Support Squadron-272	Loss, 24 - 13
Oct. 27 / 8 p.m.	vs. Installation Personnel Administration Center	Win, 19 - 0
Nov. 1 / 8 p.m.	vs. Headquarters and Headquarters Squadron	Win, 11 - 5
Nov. 2 / 8 p.m.	vs. Marine Light/Attack Helicopter Squadron-167	Loss, 4 - 14
9 p.m.	vs. Medical	Win, 25 - 5

John Gunn's sports highlights

Another Marine Corps football player killed in Iraq

J.P. Blecksmith, 24, a former Annapolis football player, was killed during a military operation in Fallujah, Iraq.

Blecksmith, a 2nd lieutenant in the Marine Corps and a platoon commander, was apparently in an area of the besieged city to clear out pockets of insurgents when he was shot from behind, his father, Edward Blecksmith, told the L.A. Times.

J. P. Blecksmith was part of a U.S. military campaign, in conjunction with Iraqi forces, which began

"I think the thing I miss most is his antics. He loved doing silly things."

- Ed Blecksmith, father of J.P. Blecksmith

six days earlier to take control of Fallujah. Fallujah has been a bastion of persistent insurgent violence in Iraq.

Blecksmith was a 1999 graduate of Flintridge Preparatory School, where he was a three-year quarterback letter winner in football, while also lettering four times in track and twice in soccer. He was named a Blue Chip All-American in football his junior and senior years and made it to the CIF finals in about 10 events.

Blecksmith entered the Naval Academy in 1999, where he began his career as a quarterback. He did not see any varsity action his freshman or sophomore years, but did play some as a junior and relieved a letter as a senior, said the Times.

Family members believe he was hit by a sniper's bullet outside the left shoulder of his flack jacket, and either the bullet or shard of bone punctured his heart, the Pasadena Star-News said.

His father, longtime San Marino resident was a Marine during the Vietnam War. He lettered as an end for USC in 1964 and '65 and was a back for Quantico in 1968.

As a boy, Blecksmith would dig out his father's old jungle utilities, dress himself for battle and dig a hole in a vacant lot next door to the home they lived in Seattle for five years.

"He'd dig a hole and play soldier," his father said.

"(But) I never pushed him to be a Marine."

Blecksmith was the youngest of three children. He grew up to be athletic and intelligent with good SAT scores, and he was quickly recruited by the Naval Academy, his father said.

"He did everything that a father could ever want or ask of a son," He said.

J.P. Blecksmith was 6' 3" and about 220 pounds after he went into the Marines. His father described him as compassionate, good-looking kid

with a good sense of humor.

"He always had time for people," his father said. "He had to be tough to do what he did, but he also had a loving side. He knew when to be a tough guy and when to be a gentleman."

Blecksmith was commissioned in May 2003 and started training at MCB in Quantico and returned to California and to Camp Pendleton this spring, said the Star-News.

After four more months of training, he was deployed to Iraq on Sept. 10.

His family was notified Veterans Day night that he had been killed.

"It was devastating," his father said. "I can't describe the emptiness I feel, the hurt I feel, the pain I feel as does my wife."

The family last spoke to him by phone two weeks earlier and by e-mail shortly thereafter.

"I think he was a little pensive and that's understandable," his father said. "He'd been in firefights but never heavy combat."

His father said hundreds of people have stopped by the family's San Marino home since Veterans Day.

"I think the thing I'll miss most is his antics," his father said, referring to last Christmas, when Blacksmith came downstairs dressed as Saddam Hussein with pieces of an old Halloween wig stuck to his face. "He loved doing silly things."

New River takes it 'one game at a time'

Lance Cpl. Steven R. Sawyer correspondent

The Station sponsored football team, simply known as New River, decimated the Camp Lejeune Navy Hospital Battalion team 30 - 0, here Dec. 2.

The game was New River's fifth win.

"We've got a great team," said Sgt. Luis Matos, New River's coach. "We just need to stay humble."

That may not be an easy task, said Matos, as New River is, at this point in the season, undefeated.

Their record is good evidence to the prowess of the Station's home team. In the most recent game alone, against the Navy Hospital Battalion, New River was leading by so much that the game was called at the beginning of the fourth quarter, citing the "mercy" rule which states that any team trailing by 30 or more points may forfeit the game.

Not all of the season has been so easy, however, according to Matos. In game three against Camp Lejeune's Headquarters Battalion, New River won by only one point.

As the playoffs approach, such heady competition

will be New River's biggest worry, said Pfc. Amandel Nelson, assistant coach for the team.

"I'm not even worried about the playoffs yet. I take it game by game. My only focus is the game we're playing, and the game coming up," concluded Matos.



JPAO/CVIC

New River plays its fifth game of the regular season against Camp Lejeune Navy Hospital Battalion on Dec. 2. Station beat Hospital Battalion 30 - 0.

Vance pupil first woman Marine assigned to fly Osprey

Jeff Mullen
contributor

When student pilots arrive at Vance Air Force Base, among the forms they have to fill out is a biographical questionnaire for the base Public Affairs office.

There is a space on the form for students to list any prior noteworthy achievements.

Marine 2nd Lt. Sara Faibisoff, a native of Lake Havasu City, Ariz., answered the noteworthy achievements question by writing, "Not too much, I'm a normal girl." No longer.

On Nov. 18, Faibisoff became the first female pilot in the Marine Corps to be assigned to fly the Osprey.

Learning to fly jets at Vance,

however, led her to want to become a fighter pilot. The Osprey is a combination of the two disciplines.

"I'm really happy that I was selected for the program," she said. "It's an incredible opportunity."

"She is a standout Marine officer," said Faibisoff's flight commander, Capt. Brian Young. "She always stood out for being able to quickly adapt to changing conditions, which will benefit her flying the Osprey."

She left Enid, Okla., Sunday for five months of training in the C-12 twin turboprop aircraft at Naval Air Station Corpus Christi, Texas, then will spend five months at NAS Pensacola, Fla., learning to fly the TH-57 helicopter, before finally getting into the seat of a V-22 at MCAS New River, N.C., later next year.

HMH-461 = high-speed wrecker service

Sgt. Wayne Campbell
correspondent

Members from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461 and Team Alpha, 1-294th Infantry (Light), transported a High-Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle to Camp United, Ethiopia, by carrying the vehicle underneath a CH-53E Super Stallion on Nov. 17.

The purpose of the sling load was to replace a disabled vehicle in Ethiopia and to bring it back for repairs, according to 1st Lt. Charles Douglas, 1st platoon commander, Team Alpha.

A sling load is accomplished by a team that hooks an object to two slings hanging from a helicopter while it is hovering over the object.

Once the vehicle was off the

ground, the team of Soldiers loaded onto an awaiting helicopter.

After landing in Ethiopia, the team guided the helicopter to safely place the vehicle on the ground. After it was on the ground, the hooks on the slings were released by the CH-53E Super Stallion's crewchief.

"The whole process went great," said Douglas. "It was a go from the beginning. The pilots did a great job keeping the helicopter steady while we were hooking the [vehicle] to the aircraft's slings, and my team did a great job preparing the vehicle and hooking them up."

A CH-53E Super Stallion from Marine Heavy Helicopter Squadron-461 prepares to lift a Highly-Mobile Multi-Wheeled Vehicle. The vehicle is being transported to Camp United, Ethiopia.



Sgt. Wayne Campbell

It is right to give thanks on this day

Lt. Charles D. McCormick
MAG - 26 Chaplain



For Americans, Thanksgiving is stimulated by our past national history. We are well aware of the story of the Pilgrims at Plymouth Rock, Mass. They landed on these shores on Nov. 12, 1620. One hundred and two people made the trip to this country. In the succeeding weeks, they hurriedly built for themselves shelters against the winter's cold, rain and snow. Illness attacked them. Half of them died during the winter of that year. Hunger came. According to historians, they endured a daily rationing of five grains of corn each day.

Those who made it through the first winter planted the crops in the spring. Native Americans taught them how to fertilize with fish. It was a good year.

The crops flourished. Harvest time came, and the bounty made the people truly thankful. They invited the Native Americans in and celebrated with them with a feast. They gave thanks for what God did for them. With this in mind, let us look at three issues dealing with blessings from God.

First, common blessings are usually overlooked. Common blessings are those blessings which are so much a part of our lives that we take them for granted, such as sunrise; sunset; day; night; love; life itself!; our five senses; and our good health. The simple things of life are so important. In which we should be thankful for.

Second, special blessings are soon forgotten. More than likely, each one of us has helped someone, and we have felt good about

helping them. Many times when we helped someone the one who really receives the blessing is the giver. Let us look at some of the helpers that have come our way like family, teachers, mentors and friends. At crucial times in our lives, they have been there to help. So often, the new level of achievement comes, the newness wears off, and we forget. We don't mean too. We just do! There have been many such people in my own life.

A former president of New York University tells of remembering a high school teacher who had introduced him to literature. It laid the foundation for his academic life, and he remembered and wrote her a thank you note.

Was he surprised at the response? She wrote:

"Dear Willie, I can't tell you how much your note meant to me. I am in my eighties and living alone in a small room, cooking my own meals, lonely and like the last leaf of fall lingering behind.

You will be interested to know I taught school fifty years, and yours is the first note of appreciation I ever received. It came on a cold, blue morning, and it cheered me as nothing has for years."

Yes, there are common blessings usually taken for granted, and special blessings soon forgotten.

Is there someone that you need to send a thank you letter to for a special blessing that they have rendered?

Finally, the greatest gift of all, which becomes tragically ignored! Our greatest gift is the everabiding presence of God in his acts of creation, redeeming and sustaining that which God creates. All that we have are gifts of God.

Three thousand years ago, the ancients

realized this and developed a religious liturgical means by which humanity could show appreciation to God for his many acts. In the book of Leviticus, Moses sets out the basis for giving a Thanksgiving offering: Offering to God unleavened cakes with oil.

Leviticus 7:11-15: "Now this is the law of the sacrifice of peace offerings, which shall be presented to the Lord. If he offers it by way of thanksgiving, then along with the sacrifice of thanksgiving he shall offer unleavened cakes mixed with oil, and unleavened wafers spread with oil and cakes of well stirred fine flour mixed with oil. With the sacrifice of his peace offerings for thanksgiving, he shall present his offering with cakes of leavened bread. And of this he shall present one of every offering as a contribution to the Lord; it shall belong to the priest who sprinkles the blood of the peace offerings. Now as for the flesh of the sacrifice of his thanksgiving peace offerings, it shall be eaten on the day of his offering; he shall not leave any of it over until morning."

Religious people believe that we really own nothing. We are stewards of that which God owns. As God's stewards, we know everything we have is on loan from God.

Therefore, the way to show appreciation is to give a portion of that gift back to God.

In the giving, we relinquish all control over our gift. We have no say over how it is to be used. The ancients burned most of what was given to God, and some of it was eaten. But the giver gave.

What is something this holiday season that you can give not "I have to," but "I want to," not out of "tax deduction," but a true need?

I will end with this poem by Helen Rice Steiner:

"Thank God for everything.

Thank you God for everything. The big things and the small, For every good gift comes from God, The giver of them all."

And all too often, we accept without any thanks or praise the gifts God sends as blessings each day in many ways. First, thank you for the little things that often come our way; the things we take for granted, but don't mention when we pray. Thank you for the miracles we are much too blind to see, and give us new awareness of our many gifts from thee. And help us to remember that the key to life and living is to make each prayer; a prayer of thanks, and every day, Thanksgiving.

Station Chapel Services

Sunday Worship

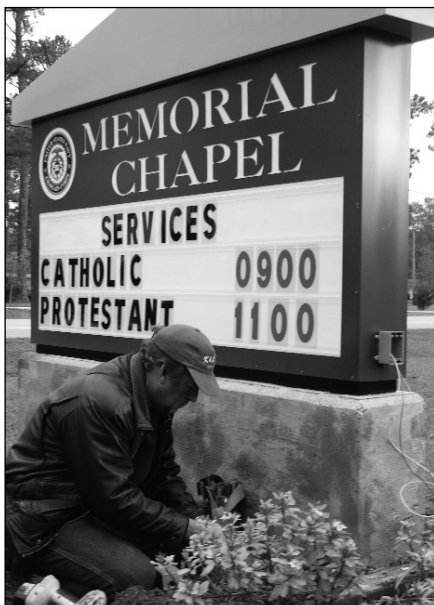
9 a.m. Catholic
11 a.m. Protestant

Editors Note: Chaplain Koch, New River's former Catholic priest, has moved on to his next duty station. His replacement is due to report in at a later date. Until that time, a Catholic priest from Camp Lejeune is conducting Sunday Mass, but there will be no weekly mass until the replacement priest arrives.

For more information, contact Petty Officer 1st Class Aaron D. Painter at 449-6801.

Chapel gets signs from above

Stanley J. Calkins, native of Richlands, N.C., wires the new chapel sign for electricity Nov. 18, to meet the new standards of the Station Commanding Officer Col. Stephen L. Forand. K&L Signs of Jacksonville, N.C., completed construction of the Memorial Chapel's new sign last month. Featuring a cement base and a tan roof, the Memorial Chapel's sign took about one week to complete and stands out more than the previous sign. Currently, the sign displays the service schedule, but it will also be used for special announcements.



Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo

Marine Family Service Center

Power Hour

Every Afternoon

This is an educational program implemented by the Boys and Girls Clubs of America to help students excel in school.

Power Hour is time every-day after school, where members have a special place that is quiet and private to do their homework.

Tutoring is available and can be scheduled on a weekly or daily basis.

Alcoholics Anonymous Meetings

Each Monday
11:50 a.m. - 12:50 p.m.

The Marine Family Service Center has Alcoholics Anonymous meetings every

Monday which are open to alcoholics and non-alcoholics.

Retired Affairs

Each Wednesday and Friday
8 a.m. - 12 p.m.

The retired affairs representative provides retired service-members and their spouses with information regarding benefits, entitlements, privileges and legal assistance.

Play Morning

Every Thursday
9:30 - 11 a.m.

Play morning is a time for moms and dads to have fun with their children, ages six and under.

For information, call the

New Parent Support Program at 451-5286.

Keystone Meetings for Teens

Each 1st and 3rd Friday
6 - 7 p.m.

This is a Boys and Girls Club program that offers an opportunity to gain leadership skills, participate in and earn community service hours as well as social activities. Come help by voicing suggestions and planning events for the program.

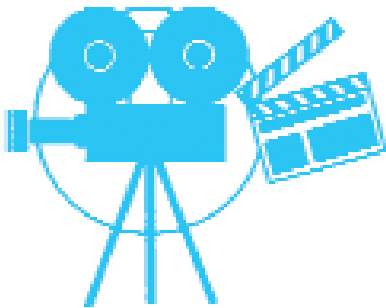
For more information about programs or to pre-register for one of the classes, please call 449-6110/6185.

Station Theater Movies

Dec. 8 - 20

Day/Date	Time	Title	Rating	Length
Wed. / Dec. 8	9 a.m.	Alfie	R	106 min.
	7 p.m.	Alfie	R	106 min.
Fri. / Dec. 10	6:30 p.m.	The Incredibles	PG	115 min.
	9:30 p.m.	The Grudge	PG-13	91 min.
Sat. / Dec. 11	6:30 p.m.	The Incredibles	PG	115 min.
	9:30 p.m.	The Grudge	PG-13	91 min.
Sun. / Dec. 12	3 p.m.	The Incredibles	PG	115 min.
	6 p.m.	The Seed of Chucky	R	87 min.
Mon. / Dec. 13	7 p.m.	The Seed of Chucky	R	87 min.
Wed. / Dec. 15	9 a.m.	Ray	PG-13	152 min.
	7 p.m.	Ray	PG-13	152 min.
Fri. / Dec. 17	7 p.m.	The Polar Express	G	90 min.
	9:30 p.m.	Ray	PG-13	152 min.
Sat. / Dec. 18	7 p.m.	The Polar Express	G	90 min.
	9:30 p.m.	Ray	PG-13	152 min.
Sun. / Dec. 19	3 p.m.	The Polar Express	G	90 min.
	6 p.m.	After the Sunset	PG-13	97 min.
Mon. / Dec. 20	12 p.m.	Surviving Christmas	PG-13	92 min.
	7 p.m.	After the Sunset	PG-13	97 min.

Movie times are subject to change.
For more information, call the Station Theater at 449-6292 or 449-6528.



The theater snack bar opens 30 minutes before the first movie and closes 45 minutes after the last movie begins.

A \$1 admission fee is charged for ages seven and above.

CRAIG H. STREETER



Whaddya mean, you don't have to go ANYMORE???

SAFETY OFFICE SNIPPETS

Holiday Decorating Safety

With decorative lights, candles and electronics being used in and around the home this holiday season, the Electrical Safety Foundation International wants to help keep people safe from fires and injuries. An electric shock or electrical fire could darken festivities and lead to a holiday spent in an emergency room or worse.

To help avoid becoming an emergency room casualty, ESFI offers the following safety tips and precautions:

Before decorating, read and follow the manufacturer's instructions concerning installation and maintenance of all electrical decorations.

Indoors and out, use only the lights and decorations that have been certified by a recognized independent testing laboratory.

Outdoors, use only decorations certified for outdoor use. Carefully inspect each decoration before plugging into an outlet. Cracked, frayed, loose or bare wires and loose connections may cause an electric shock or fire. Replace damaged items.

Always unplug an electrical decoration before replacing light bulbs or fuses.

Don't overload extension cords. This creates a fire hazard. Keep outdoor extension cords and light strings clear of snow or standing water and protected from weather.

Use caution when decorating near power lines. Contact with a high-voltage line could lead to electrocution.

Never use electric lights on a metallic tree. The tree can become charged with electricity from faulty lights, and a person touching a branch could be electrocuted.

Don't allow children or pets to play with electrical decorations. Even small light decorations can produce a deadly electric shock if they are misused.

Turn off all electrical decorations before leaving home or going to bed.

Plug outdoor lights and decorations into circuits protected by ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Portable GFCIs can be purchased wherever electrical supplies are sold.

Send in warranty and product registration information to manufacturers from new toys or appliances. This allows for prompt notification in the event of a recall.

These and other electrical safety tips are available at the foundation's Web site at www.electrical-safety.org <<http://www.electrical-safety.org>>, or call 703-841-3229.

LC10

LCTV-10 Schedules

LC10

Dec. 10 - 16

Show Title	Show Times
Jim Zumbo: "Mule Deer Colorado"	7:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m., 11:30 p.m.
The Morning Report	8 a.m., 12 p.m., 4 p.m., 8 p.m., 12 p.m., 4 a.m.
Air Force News	8:30 a.m., 4:30 p.m., 12:30 a.m.
Your Corps	9 a.m., 5 p.m., 1 a.m.
Army Newswatch	9:30 a.m., 5:30 p.m., 1:30 a.m.
Snipers: One Shot, One Kill	10 a.m., 6 p.m., 2 a.m.
Motion Picture History of the Korean War	11 a.m., 7 p.m., 3 a.m.
Pacific Report	12:30 p.m., 8:30 p.m., 4:30 a.m.
Navy/Marine Corps News	1 p.m., 9 p.m., 5 a.m.
Loras College: A View from the Hill	1:30 p.m., 9:30 p.m., 5:30 a.m.
Pentagon Ch. On Assignment	2 p.m., 10 p.m., 6 a.m.
Pentagon Ch. Studio 5	2:30 p.m., 10:30p.m., 6:30 a.m.
Fayetteville State University	3 p.m., 11 p.m., 7 a.m., 9:30p.m.



Seasons Greetings from The RotoVue staff and CVIC



Lance Cpl. John D. Cranford

Pictured from left to right: Sgt. Juan Vara, Lance Cpl. Jeffrey Everitt, Gunnery Sgt. Richard Small, Lance Cpl. Michael Angelo, Lance Cpl. Steven Sawyer, Lance Cpl. Jonathan Tabb, Master Sgt. Brenda Donnell, Lance Cpl. Noah Dunagan, Sgt. Christine Odom, Capt. Rob James, Sgt. Andrew Miller and Lance Cpl. John Cranford.

The Marines of the Joint Public Affairs Office and Combat Visual Information Center would like to thank everyone aboard the Station and in the local community who helped us in our endeavor to publish the RotoVue throughout this year.

Without the support from the Station commander, the Marine Aircraft Group-26 and -29 commanders, all squadron commanding officers, their unit information officers and others it would have been impossible to produce a newspaper

filled with diverse information for our readers.

Throughout this year we have covered the war in Iraq; Operation Iraqi Freedom II; the counterterrorism operations of the Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa; the on going progress of the MV-22 Osprey; and numerous departures and homecomings.

Thank you all for the invitations to cover your events, and we extend our sincere appreciation to those who contributed

with stories and commentaries; please continue to do so. Commentaries, opinions and editorials are always welcome.

Last but not least, our thanks to all combat correspondents and combat photographers who have supported us.

We wish you all a very Merry Christmas peace and prosperity in the New Year, and as always, remember our deployed Marines and Sailors, and the families of the fallen troops. Semper Fidelis.